

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9710

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR GR US

SUBJECT: UNOFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF CARTER-CARAMANLIS

LONDON MEETING

1. THE GREEK MEDIA YESTERDAY AND TODAY GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO A REPORT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WOULD MEET IN LONDON DURING THE COMING MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. THE REPORT CITES A "WELL-INFORMED ATHENS SOURCE" WHO CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WOULD MEET IN LONDON DURING THE NATO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE MAY 10-11. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (ANA) BULLETIN VERSION TODAY (MARCH 28) SAID IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE TWO LEADERS WILL REVIEW ALL SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, NAMELY GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND US-GREEK BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE REPORT ALSO NOTES THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS WILL MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE DURING THE NATO CONFERENCE.

2. THE ANA STORY NOTED THAT PRESIDENT

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CARTER HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY CLARK CLIFFORD ON HIS TALKS IN ATHENS, ANKARA AND NICOSIA. THE "SOURCE" IS QUOTED AS ADDING THAT THE REPORT SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT CARTER BY CLIFFORD SHOWED UNDERSTANDING OF THE GREEK VIEWS AND, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE, AGREED WITH THE GREEK POSITION THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE ON THE CONTINENTAL

SHELF SHOULD BE SOUGHT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. SHOULD NEGOTIATIONS FAIL, HE CONTINUED, THEN RECOURSE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AT THE HAGUE. THE SAME "SOURCE," ACCORDING TO THE ANA, INDICATED "THE US SIDE CONSIDERS THE TURKISH VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT AS ARROGANT."

3. THE STORY SAID FURTHER THAT, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, TURKISH PREMIER DEMIREL HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER HE WILL ATTEND THE NATO MEETING IN LONDON AND MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. OTHER REPORTS IN THE GREEK PRESS SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT DEMIREL WILL ATTEND AND THAT HE AND CARAMANLIS WILL ALSO GET TOGETHER.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THE "SOURCE" WAS A GOG OFFICIAL, POSSIBLY EVEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER, BACKGROUNDING THE PRESS. IF IT WAS A HIGH GOG OFFICIAL WE THINK HE WENT TOO FAR IN HIS COMMENTS, INCLUDING TRYING TO INDICATE THAT THE US CONSIDERED TURKISH VIEWS AS "ARROGANT"; AND WE INTEND TO MAKE THIS POINT TO THE GOG AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY.
KUBISCH

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